

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 AGR-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00

L-03 HEW-02 DODE-00 AID-05 USIE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 OES-03 OMB-01

H-02 PRS-01 INRE-00 /074 W

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O P 010920Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 905

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH OPIUM POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM

REF ANKARA 7390

1. SEPTEMBER 30 MISSION OFFICER VISITED AFYON TO DISCUSS CURRENT POPPY CULTIVATION LICENSING PROCEDURES WITH THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE TURKISH SOIL PRODUCTS OFFICE. THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LICENSING IN ALL OF THE POPPY GROWING AREAS, SAID THAT IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR HE HAS NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM ANKARA TO RESTRICT THE GROWING AREA TO 20,000 HECTARES. THEREFORE, HE IS LICENSING APPLICATIONS FOR PLANTING OF UP TO FIVE DECARES, WHEN REQUESTED, ALTHOUGH MOST FARMERS

ARE STILL REQUESTING ONE, TWO OR THREE.

2. COMMENT: SEPTEMBER 30 WAS THE FINAL DAY FOR RECEIPT OF LICENSING APPLICATIONS. SOIL PRODUCTS OFFICE DIRECTOR HAS NOT
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YET RECEIVED ALL APPLICATIONS, AND IS PRESENTLY UNABLE TO ESTIMATE

TOTAL AREA THAT WILL BE LICENSED FOR CULTIVATION. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT THE AREA THIS YEAR WILL BE GREATER THAN THE 20,000 HECTARE RESTRICTION OF LAST YEAR. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT LICENSES WERE GRANTED FOR 20,000 HECTARES IN 1974 WITH THE EXPECTATION OF A HARVEST OF 16,000 TONS OF POPPY STRAW. FACT THAT HARVEST WAS LESS THAN HALF OF THAT AMOUNT (DUE TO WINTER LOSSES) COULD BE A MOTIVATING FACTOR IN REMOVING THE AREA RESTRICTION THIS YEAR. WE HAVE NO INDICATION HOWEVER THAT THIS HAS BEEN DECIDED. END COMMENT.

3. THE ABOVE POSSIBILITY APPEARS TO BE IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH ASSURANCES GIVEN ON "DEEP BACKGROUND" SEPTEMBER 30 TO VOA CORRESPONDENT BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THE OVERALL AREA OF CULTIVATION THIS YEAR WOULD NOT BE GREATER THAN THAT OF LAST YEAR.
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